

IN THE DRAWINGS

Kindly delete Figs. 1 to 7 of the drawings and enter the enclosed new Figs. 1 to 7.

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner required the addition of the legend "Prior Art". Attached hereto, is a new Figure 1 which bears the legend "Prior Art". The term "epicycloidal color pattern" has been deleted from the claims, and for these reasons, it is requested that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Vorbach and claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by JP 2002-316622 (Japanese patent).

In response, claims 1 to 3 have been canceled and new claims 4 and 5 are being submitted.

New claim 4 points out that the claimed washing brush element is adapted to be axially coupled to a plurality of like washing brush elements for making washing brush assemblies, in particular by assembling the individual brush elements axially on a central shaft, as originally disclosed in the original specification. In particular, new claim 4 points out that the inclination of the seats for the band elements is such that each said band element has a length larger by substantially 25% than a length of an imaginary like band element arranged in a direction parallel to the central longitudinal axis of the cylindric ring body, as originally disclosed.

New claim 4 is based on the original disclosure including the specification and drawings. The specification has been amended without adding new matter to clarify the description of the invention without adding new matter.

Thus, new claim 4 substantially corresponds to previous claim 1, but in addition. claim 4 now recites further inventive features as originally disclosed on page 6 of Applicant's disclosure.

With regard to the rejection over Vorbach, the Applicant wishes to note that this reference was cited in the PCT Search Report, dated June 26, 2003 as an "A" reference, meaning that it was regarded only as background prior art.

The Applicant does not agree with the assertion of the Examiner that Vorbach discloses the claimed invention including a cylindric body having a central longitudinal axis and a side cylindric outer surface.

In fact, the cylindric body disclosed by Vorbach is not made by axially coupling a plurality of like cylindric ring elements on a central shaft.

Moreover, in Vorbach, the plurality of separated adjoining diagonal seats PN are not formed on the surface of the roller, but in an auxiliary strip BS which must be attached onto the cylindric roller shaft with a helical arrangement.

In other words, Vorbach does not disclose a brush assembly which is made by axially coupling a plurality of like cylindric ring bodies on each of which the seats are directly formed as recited in new claims 4 and 5. In fact, in Vorbach, the slanted seats, are formed on an auxiliary strip which must be wound and attached onto the roller body. Moreover, Vorbach clearly states that the adjoining like band elements are not very resilient but are so thick that they are resistant to bending, which feature is indispensable for a proper operation of the Vorbach brush assembly. In Vorbach, each single band element,

which is triangular and not rectangular as pointed out in new claim 4, is so twisted as to present the working or washing faces, that are opposite to the faces of the strips, always parallel to the axis of the roller.

Accordingly, these prior band elements could not assume the configuration and partially overlapping arrangement as recited in new claim 4 which is novel and unobvious and is based on canceled claims 1 and 2. In addition, new claim 4 includes the further added feature that the seats are inclined so that each of said band elements has a length larger by substantially 25% than a length of an imaginary like band element arranged in a direction parallel to the central longitudinal axis of the cylindric ring body.

None of the documents cited by the Examiner recites this further inventive feature. In this connection, Applicant believes that the prior brush roller were not made by axially assembling a plurality of like cylindric ring elements.

The Applicant does not agree with the Examiner that the seat would be the region having the reference number 10 in figure 3, and does not agree with the assertion of the Examiner that each band element falls so as to overlap and partially contact an adjoining like band element. On the contrary, Applicant believes that the bolt elements shown in figure 2 would prevent such an arrangement from occurring.

Finally, it is respectfully submitted that the Japanese patent does not teach or suggest the recited feature that is related to the inclination of each seat, that is an inclination such that each band element would have a length larger by substantially 25% than a length of an imaginary like band element

arranged in a direction parallel to the central longitudinal axis of the cylindric ring body. New claim 5 recites the further feature wherein each said adjoining band element has a different color.

It is respectfully submitted that this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the prior art documents

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this single individual feature is sufficient to patentably distinguish the claimed washing brush element from Vorbach and the Japanese patent. For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

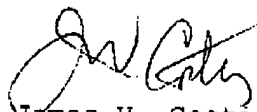
Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vorbach in view of WO03/018375A1 (Wimmer) and over the Japanese patent in view of Wimmer.

Wimmer discloses a car wash brush in which the washing assemblies consisting of a plurality of adjoining strips which are of different colors, and not the single strips. Thus, it is each string assembly which has a different color. Moreover, the color in Wimmer must be necessarily seen through a lighting device controlled by a light frequency changing device, which is an arrangement very different from that of Applicant as pointed out in new claim 5, in addition to being much more complex. The Vorbach and the Japanese patent fail to make the newly presented claims obvious for the reasons set forth above. As noted above, claim 3 has been canceled and the color feature where the bands have different colors does not have to be shown in the drawings.

In view of the foregoing discussion, allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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